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(54) Title: PROCESS TO PRODUCE PIPELINE-TRANSPORTABLE CRUDE OIL FROM FEED STOCKS CONTAINING HEAVY HYDROCARBONS

(57) Abstract: The present invention relates to a process for the production of a pipeline-transportable crude oil from a bitumen feed, comprising; (1) dividing the bitumen feed into two fractions, the first fraction comprising between 20 and 80 wt% of the feed, the second fraction comprising between 80 and 20 wt% of the total feed, (the two fractions together forming 100 wt % of the feed), (2) distillation of the first fraction obtained in step (1) (preferably under vacuum) into a light fraction boiling below 380 °C (preferably the 450 °C fraction, more preferably the 510 °C fraction) and a residual fraction, (3) thermal cracking (of at least part of, preferably all of,) the residual fraction obtained in the distillation process described in step (2), (4) distillation of the product obtained in step (3) into one or more light fractions (boiling below 350 °C), optionally one or more intermediate fractions (boiling between 350 and 510 °C) and a heavy fraction (boiling above at least 350 °C), (5) combining the second fraction obtained in step (1), the light fraction obtained in step (2) and the light fraction(s) obtained in step (4) to obtain a pipeline-transportable crude oil, and (6) using heavy fraction obtained in step (4) for the generation of power and/or heat.